THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) By virtue of a notification issued under the provisions of section 3 of the Foreign Aircraft (Exemption from Taxes and Duties on Fuel and Lubricants) Act, 2002, the fuels and lubricants filled into receptacles of aircrafts of any foreign country, which is a party to the Convention on International Civil Aviation or which has entered into Air Services Agreements with India, operating scheduled or non-scheduled international air services to or from India, shall be exempted from levy of all taxes & duties in India, whether levied by the Central Government or State Government as the case may be.

(b) and (c) Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) do not come under the purview of the above-mentioned notification as the Foreign Aircraft (Exemption from Taxes & Duties on Fuel & Lubricants) Act, 2002 was enacted under Article 253 of the Constitution of India to meet India's obligations arising out of the bilateral Air Services Agreements with various countries and the Chicago convention. As such, AI and IA are required to pay sales tax on ATF uplifted by them for their international as well as domestic operations.

(d) As per Entry 54 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, sales tax on ATF is a State subject and the Union Government has no power to legislate in this regard.

Loans sanctioned to SCs/STs

1258. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loan sanctioned by Banks and Financial Institutions during the period 1995-96 to 2002-2003 year-wise and State-wise; and

(b) the percentage of total loan sanctioned in favour of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes applicants during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) State-wise details of Gross Bank Credit by all Scheduled Commercial Banks from March, 1995 till September, 2002 (latest available) is given in Annexure

(*See* Appendix 198, Annexure No. 8). The total State-wise sanctions by All India Financial Institutions from March, 1995 till March, 2001 (latest available) is given in Annexure (*See* Appendix 198, Annexure No. 8).

(b) Scheduled commercial banks extend credit to priority sector which *inter-alia* includes scheduled castes/scheduled tribes. The State-wise details of priority sector credit by scheduled commercial banks and share of SC/ST for the last six years ending March, 2001 (latest available) is given in Annexure (*See* Appendix 198, Annexure No. 8). However, the financial institutions extend assistance to all industries without any restriction regarding constitution of an industrial concern and individuals comprising it.

Retirement of CMDs of Banks

1259. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CMDs of the Bank of India and Allahabad Bank will be retiring in near future;

(b) if so, whether the process of the selection of their successors has been initiated; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that selected candidates are placed in position immediately after the retirement of the present incumbents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The CMD, Allahabad Bank and Bank of India are retiring on 31.3.2003 and 31.5.2003 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) All efforts are being made to do so. The process of selection of successors has been started well in advance.

Certification of professional competence for market intermediaries

1260. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: